CLAIMS

1. An apparatus, including

a client device, including a means for making a request to a remote server;

a proxy encoder, including software for identifying and manipulating template information and sub-template information;

a memory coupled to said proxy encoder, said memory including said template information and said sub-template information, and

a communication network coupled to said client device and said proxy encoder.

2. An apparatus as in claim 1, including a decoder, wherein said decoder includes a means for intercepting said requests.

3. An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said decoder includes a means for decompressing responses to said requests and integrating said responses to said requests.

4. An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said decoder is coupled to said client device.

5. An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said decoder is coupled to a network element local to said client device, where said network element includes one of the following: web browser, a firewall, a router or a proxy cache.

6. An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said proxy encoder includes software for data compression.

7. An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said proxy encoder includes software for comparing said templates and sub-templates in said memory with other information obtained from said remote server.

8. An apparatus as in claim 1, including

a means for distinguishing between those documents that are sent more efficiently using templates and sub-templates from those documents that are sent more efficiently without the use of sub- templates;

a means for managing a hierarchy of sub-templates; and

a means for assembling templates and sub-templates.

9. A method, including

redirecting a request for information from a client to a proxy server, said proxy server including a memory comprised of template information and sub-template information;

comparing information included in said memory with other information from a remote server;

responding to said request by sending template information, sub-template information and delta information.

10. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of redirecting is performed by a decoder coupled to a user's browser.

11. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of redirecting is performed by a remote server.

12. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of comparing is performed by a proxy encoder.

13. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of comparing information includes tagging said template information so as to identify a version of said template information.

14. A method in claim 9, wherein said step of comparing includes tagging said sub-template information so as to identify a version of said sub-template information.

15. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of comparing includes identifying a set of delta information

16. A method as in claim 9, also including a step of compressing and caching said template information.

17. A method as in claim 9, also including a step of compressing and caching said sub-template information.

18. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of responding to said request is performed by said proxy encoder.

19. A method as in claim 9, including a step of integrating said template information, said sub-template information and said delta information.

20. A method as in claim 19, wherein said step of integrating includes decompressing said template information and said sub-template information.

21. A method as in claim 19, wherein said step of integrating is performed by said proxy encoder.

22. A method as in claim 19, wherein said step of integrating is performed by said decoder.

23. A method as in claim 9, including steps of

distinguishing between those documents that are sent more efficiently using templates and sub-templates from those documents that are sent more efficiently without the use of templates;

managing and retrieving sub-templates; and

assembling templates and sub-templates.

24. A method as in claim 23, wherein said step of distinquishing includes

identifying common sub-strings,

classifying said common sub-strings,

checking the number of variations of said sub-strings; and

comparing said number to a number of said deltas.